

**Shawnee National Forest  
2014 Fall Color Report**

**October 27<sup>th</sup> through Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup>**



*Fall Foliage at Tower Rock along the Ohio River  
10/26/2014*



*View of the Shawnee Hills from Garden of the Gods  
Recreation Area 10/26/2014*

*Fall* is one of the most popular seasons in southern Illinois, as with it brings life to the Shawnee National Forest! Currently there is still a lot of mixed color across the landscape, with some trees showing their autumn foliage and others still green. The maples, sycamore and elm have turned into a blend of orange, yellow and red. Always the last to change will be the wide variety of oak tree species, transforming into deep reds and burnt orange. Currently leaf change is at about 70% complete, with this year's peak season likely to occur around the first of November.

If you're planning a trip, consider the following scenic drives:

**1) LaRue-Pine Hills Road** is located near Anna/Jonesboro area and is about 35 miles round trip from Jonesboro. The drive consists of a mixture of state, county and forest roads. The main attractions are along the winding LaRue-Pine Hills road, which leads you to the top of bluffs overlooking the Mississippi floodplain and the world-renowned LaRue-Pine Hills/Otter Pond Research Natural Area. This scenic drive also accesses Pine Hills campground, several picnic areas and a variety of local attractions (i.e., antique shops, wineries, and orchards). The general location of this drive is southwest of Carbondale, IL.

**2) Ohio River National Scenic Byway** transverses three states, Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois. The Illinois portion is approximately 300 miles and ends at the confluence of the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers in Cairo, IL. The Scenic Byway reflects the culture and history found along the rolling, hilly landscape of the Ohio River Valley in Illinois. It passes through the eastern portion of the Shawnee National Forest near recreation areas such as the Garden of the Gods, Pounds Hollow, High Knob, Rim Rock, Tower Rock, in addition to Cave in Rock State Park and many small historic river towns.

For more information contact the Shawnee National Forest, (618) 253-7114 or [www.fs.usda.gov/shawnee](http://www.fs.usda.gov/shawnee) or Southernmost Illinois Tourism Bureau, (800) 248-4373 or <http://southernmostillinois.com/>